

## Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 PM-09 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

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USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T KUWAIT 1187

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MCAF, MASS KU

SUBJECT: USMILITARY TEAM VISIT TO KUWAIT

REF: (A) KUWAIT 1120 (B) KUWAIT 1159 (C) 1172

SUMMARY: EMBOFFS DISCUSSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR US MILITARY TEAM (USMT) VISIT WITH KUWAIT MILITARY MORE CONCERNED WITH ORGANIZATIONAL AND PLANNING ASPECTS THAN HAD BEEN INDICATED AND THAT GOK WANTS TO BEGIN NAVAL RPT NAVAL PLANNING. KUWAITIS INDICATED REASONS FOR PREFERRING MIRAGE AIRCRAFT TO F-5 S AND INDICATED APPROXIMATELY \$350 MILLION BEING EARMARKED BY GOK FOR DEFENSE. END SUMMARY

1. EMBOFFS MET APRIL 14 WITH KUWAIT MILITARY OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE FOR VISIT USMT. KUWAITIS GAVE IMPRESSION THEY EAGERLY AWAITING TEAMS' S ARRIVAL. ON KUWAIT SIDE USMT WILL BE HANDLED BY ARMY AND AIR DEFENSE GROUPS. ARMY GROUP WILL BE INTERESTED IN TANKS, COMMUNICATIONS AND MILITARY TRANSPORT. THIS GROUP WILL BE LED BY ARMY COL. MUHAMMAD AL- BADR. AIR DEFENSE GROUP WILL BE LED BY KAF COL. ABDULLA SUMAIT AND WILL BE CONCERNED ALL ASPECTS AIR DEFENSE. GENERAL CONTROL OFFICER FOR KUWAITIS WILL BE KAF LT. COL. ABD AL- AZIZ AL SAYIGH AND EXCORT OFFICER WILL BE KAF CAPT KHALID BOURISSLI.

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2. EMBOFFS AND KUWAITIS WILL MEET USMIT AT AIRPORT VIP LOUNGE ON ARRIVAL BCD Goup WILL PROCEED HILTON HOTEL. THROUGHOUT STAY KUWAIT MILITARY WILL PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION. ON APRIL 17 GROUP WILL MEET AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFFS AT EMBASSY AND WILL THEN PROCEED TO MOD FOR MEETING WITH SHAIKH SA' AD. OTHER MEETINGS WITH CHIEF OF STAFF MUBARAKITND OTHER KUWAITIS WILL FOLLOW. GENERAL SCHEDULE INVOLVING KUWAITIS WILL BE FROM 9:00 AM TO 1.00 PM EACH DAY.

3. DURING MEETING WITH MILITARY OFFICERS IT BECAME APPARENT THEY CONSIDERABLY MORE CONCERNED WITH BASIC ORGANIZATION, COORDINATION AND PLANNING PROBKEMS THAN SENIOR MOD LEVELS HAD INDICATED. EMBOFFS SUGGESTED THIS LONG RANGE PROBLEM AND MADE POINT TEAM FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO DISCUSS PLANNING AS WELL AS PROCUREMENT.

4. IN DISCUSSING PLANNING REQUIREMENTS KUWAITI OFFICERS INDICATED THEY WISH BEGIN REVIEW OF NAVAL RPT NAVAL REQUIREMENTS. BELIEVE GOK THINKING SWITCHING NAVAL RESPONSIBILITIES FROM MININTERIOR TO MOD. KUWAITIS WANT US NAVY OFFICER ADVISE THEM ON NAVAL REQUIREMENTS AND ORGANIZATION ALTHOUGH THEY REALIZE THIS MAS HAVE TO BE DONE SEPARATELY FROM PRESENT USMIT VISIT.

5. DURING DISCUSSION ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS EMBOFF SUGGESTED F-5 AMDE MORE SENSE THAN MIRAGE FOR REASONS SYSTEM INTEGRATION AND COMMAND AND CONTROL BUT KUWAITI OFFICER LATER TOLD EMBOFFS PRIVATELY THAT MIRAGE WAS BEING CHOSEN BECAUSE IT SEEMED TO BE BETTER BUY FOR THE MONEY. CITING F-5' S COST HE SAID IN KUWAITIS' OPINION ITS RADAR, RAGE AND SPEED/ INTERCEPTION CAPABILITIES WERE ALL DEFICIENT IN LIGHT MIG-21 THREAT. OFFICER ADMITTED F-4 TOO COMPLEX FOR, KUWAITIS AND THERE FORE MIRAGE SEEMED BEST BET. HE ADDED THAT APART FROM 10-12 FRENCH SALES REPS, MIRAGE TECHNICIANS WOULD BE SUPPLIED BY PAKISTAN.

6. OFFICER NOTED IN PASSING THAT SOME \$350 MILLION WAS BEING SET ASIDE FOR MILITARY PROGRAM. NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS WAS REFERENCE TO FY 74 MOD BUDGET OR WHETHER THIS SET ASIDE FOR WEAPONS PROCUREMENT ONLY. IN ANY CASE KUWAITI OFFICERS INDICATED MONEY NOT RPT NOT A PROBLEM AT THIS JUNCTURE.

7. COMMENT; IN REVIEWING ORIGINAL GOK REQUEST FOR EQUIPMENT AND  
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ON BASIS CONVERSATION WITH MILITARY OFFICERS, APPEARS THAT

MIDDLE LEVEL OFFICERS MORE CONCERNED WITH REORGANIZATION AND PLANNING THAN SHAIKH SA' AD OR GEN. MUBARAK. AS INDICATED IN

REF B, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE KUWAITIS STARTING FROM SCRATCH AND APART FROM F-5 CONSIDERATION THEY SEEM TO WANT TO DEAL ACROSS BOARD WITH US. OFFICERS HAVE ALREADY DONE SOME THINKING BUT THEY WANT TO HAVE BENEFIT US MILITARY EXPERTISE.

8. WE BELIEVE KUWAITIS ARE FOLLOWING THREE TRACK APPROACH. FIRST, THEY QUICKLY NEED SOME CONVENTIONAL EQUIPMENT SUCH AS TRUCKS AND OTHER TRANSPORT ITEMS. NEXT THEY PLANNING

GO AHEAD WITH RELATIVELY SOPHISTICATED ITEMS SUCH AS HAWK AND TOW. IN ADDITION, HOWEVER, THEY WANT TO BEGIN TO REVAMP WHOLE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT INCLUDING NAVAL FORCES AND INVOLVING TRAINING, ORGANIZATION, EQUIPMENT, ETC.

9. REMARKS OF KUWAITI OFFICERS TO EMBOFFS SUPPORT POINTS MADE IN REF B AND SUGGEST THAT OVER NEXT THREE TO FIVE YEARS MILITARY WILL BECOME AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN GOK STRUCTURE AND MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT WILL COMMAND LARGER SHARE GOVERNMENT BUDGET. COMBINATION EXTERNAL THREAT AND ABUNDANT FUNDS INDICATES THIS CAN AND WILL BE DONE WITHOUT SERIOUS DAMAGE TO OTHER SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRAMS.

10. THIS BEING CASE, AND CONSIDERING GENUINE DESIRE COOPERATE WITH US DESPITE DIFFERENCES OF VIEW ON ARAB- ISRAELI QUESTIONS, WISH REITERATE STRONG RECOMMENDATION THAT USG BE PREPARED DISCUSS IN POSITIVE VEIN WHOLE RANGE MILITARY ISSUES CURRENTLY UNDER STUDY BY GOK. BELIEVE THIS WILL SERVE OUT INTERESTS IN GULF AND WILL BE WELCOMED BY REGIONAL ALLIES.  
STOLTZFUS

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